

CYCLE ROUTES IN & AROUND BATH

your guide





BATH - EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL BY BIKE!

When you find yourself in one of the most beautiful cities in the world, it's hard to imagine how you could appreciate it more – but the answer is you can – by bike!

Whether you're here for a day or you're lucky enough to live here, cycling is a fun way to discover more of the city and the surrounding countryside. On two wheels you are under your own steam, riding at your own pace, and are potentially reducing your carbon footprint too.

If you don't have a bike, you can hire one from the multiple shops and hire stations in Bath. Shops normally rent for ½ or full days and nextbike offers self-service 24-hour access to bikes at nine locations in and around the city centre. (For locations see map on page 3-4.)

CYCLE SAFETY

It is recommended that where possible, you and your family/friends wear a well-fitted helmet. Please note that many of the routes are on “shared paths” – this means that pedestrians also use the path, so please take care and be prepared to give way.

TIMES AND LEVELS EXPLAINED

ABILITY LEVELS



For inexperienced or beginner cyclists. Routes are completely traffic-free.



For more confident cyclists, with occasional short stretches on busier roads and some moderate hill climbs.



For progressive cyclists who would like to explore, but still prefer a mostly traffic-free route.

TIMES

Suggested times are for the speed of an average rider with plenty of time for stopping to see the sights.

ROUTES

1. Two Tunnels Greenway *Pages 5-8*
2. Kennet & Avon Canal to Bradford-on-Avon *Pages 9-12*
3. Bath to Bristol Railway Path *Pages 13-16*
4. City-centre routes (x2) *Pages 17-20*



Bike hire locations

nextbike self-service
– various locations or register at Bath Visitor Information Centre, Abbey Churchyard
020 8166 9851

Bath Narrowboats Canal Experience Centre Sydney Wharf, Bathwick Hill
01225 447276

Bathbikehire.com
Sydney Wharf, Bathwick
01225 447276

Green Park Bike Station
Green Park Station
01225 920148

Bath By Cycle 1 Victoria Buildings, Lower Bristol Road
01225 807881

Bath & Dundas Canal Company Brassknocker Basin, Monkton Combe
01225 722292

Towpath Trail Bike & Canoe Hire Frome Road, Bradford-on-Avon
01225 867187



Cycle shops

Avon Valley Cyclery
Brunel Square, behind Bath Spa station
01225 442442

The Bike Workshop
35 Corn Street
01225 463350

Green Park Bike Station
Green Park Station
01225 920148

Cadence
9 Chelsea Road, Newbridge Hill
01225 446887

John's Bikes
84 Walcot Street,
01225 334633

Take Charge Bikes 1 Victoria Buildings, Lower Bristol Road
01225 789568

Hares Cycles
6 High Street, Weston
01225 422674

HIRE LOCATIONS AND ROUTE START POINTS

Map Key



Starting Point



Tourist Information



nextbike location



Bike Hire



Cycle shop



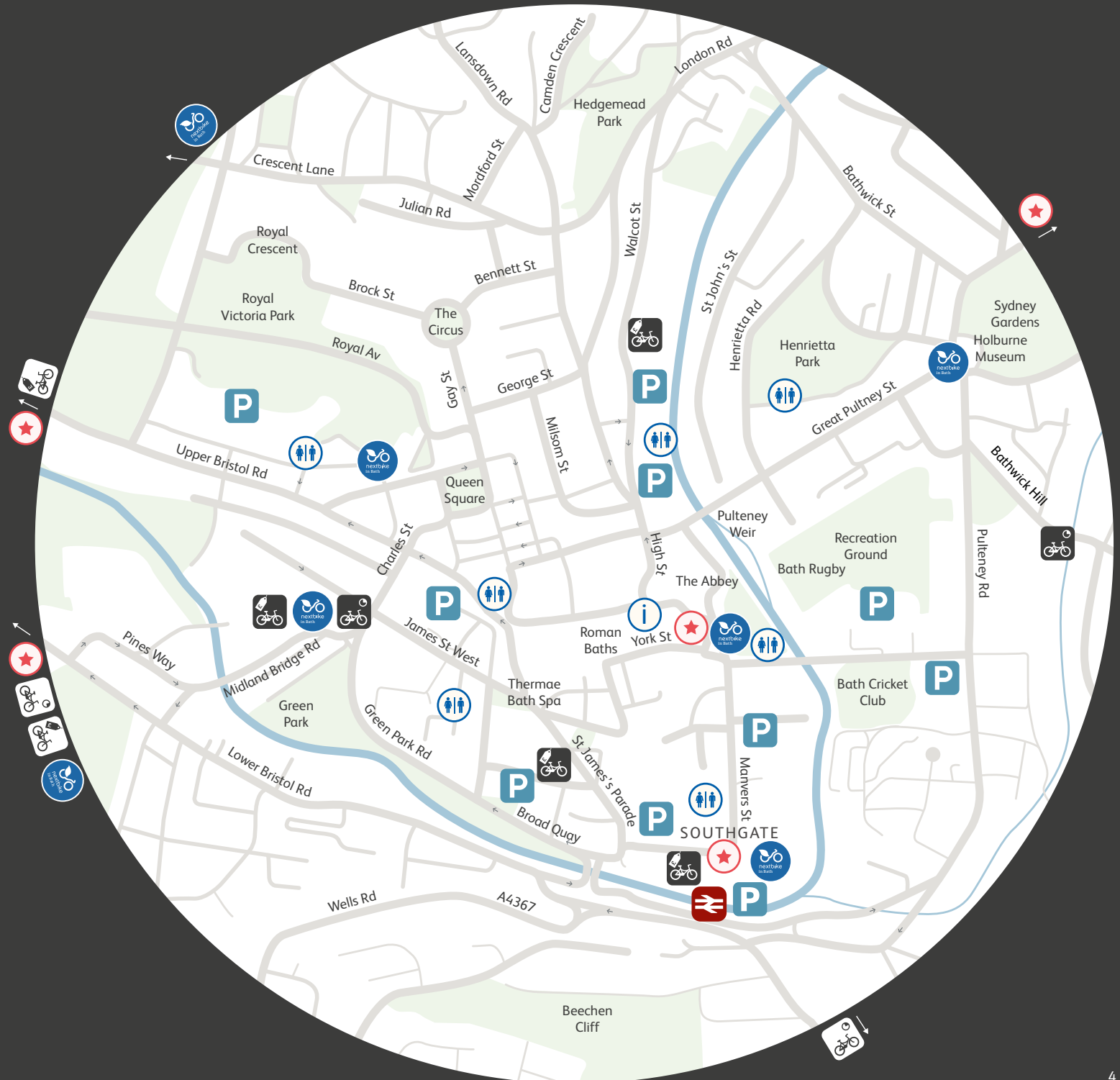
Public Toilets

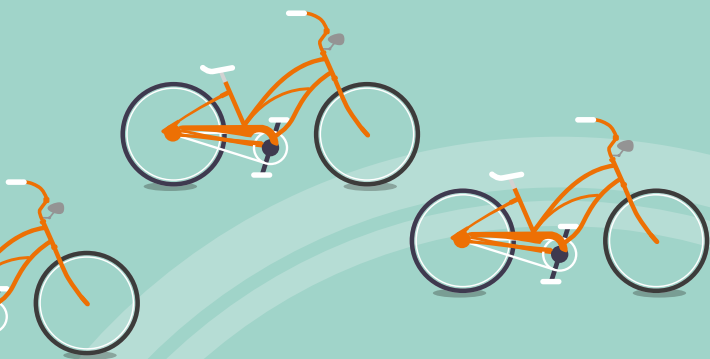


Car Parking



Railway Station





Two Tunnels Greenway

DISTANCE 12.5 MILES
TIME 2.5-3.5 HRS
ABILITY LEVEL 3

Combe Down Tunnel
(the longest cycling tunnel in the UK)

Midford castle
Dundas Aqueduct
canal path

“One of the most scenically varied and sightseeing-rich couple of hours of cycling anywhere in Britain.”
The Independent

- A** Cross the River Avon onto Fieldings Lane. Please walk your bike across the bridge and give way to pedestrians.
- B** Opposite the Roman man artwork is the entrance to Bloomfield Road Open Space, from here you can pop into The Bear, great if you fancy a coffee and cake stop.

*1 mile to the Odd Down Cycle Circuit (up steep hill – Bloomfield Road)
Visit bathnes.gov.uk/gobybike

- C** The ex-railway Devonshire Tunnel is ¼ mile (408m) long and named after one of the roads that it lies beneath.
- D** The second, longer Victorian tunnel is Combe Down, which at 1.03 miles (1672m) is the longest cycling tunnel in the UK.
- E** On exiting the tunnels continue over the reservoir – look up hill to the right to see Midford Castle.

MIDFORD CASTLE

Once Nicholas Cage's home, this folly was built in 1775 in the shape of the ace of clubs.

OPTIONAL EXTRA

Before doubling back towards Monkton Combe/Tucking Mill (where William Smith the “father of Geology” was born in 1769), you could continue a little further (½ mile) to the Hope and Anchor for a break and family-friendly food. There is also the option to continue on National Cycle Network route 24 to Wellow (2.5 miles), Radstock (6.9 miles) or further south to Frome (11.9 miles). The surface on these routes is uneven in places, there are hills and some quiet roads.

- F** Take a left off the cycle path and head almost back on yourself towards Monkton Combe.
- G** After The Wheelwright Arms (a lovely gastro pub) and Monkton Combe School turn right and drop down onto the quiet road leading to the canal.

- H** Passing (or stopping at) the potential lunch spot at Brassknocker Basin café & campsite, Angelfish Restaurant, the Somerset Coal Canal (now used for moorings) and Bath and Dundas Canal Company (where you can hire canoes) you will then cross over the canal beside Dundas Aqueduct.

DUNDAS AQUEDUCT

An impressive grade 1 listed structure built from Bath stone in 1800, it carries the Kennet & Avon Canal over the River Avon. The main arch has Doric pilasters and balustrades at each end. This was the first canal structure to be designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument in 1951.

- I** In front of The George at Bathampton is a beautiful spot for a picnic, or grab some family-friendly food at the pub. Sometimes there is a barge selling ice cream.
 - J** Leave the canal path and go up left to the traffic lights on the pavement and cross Warminster road. You can then drop down Sydney Road – you will pass Sydney Gardens and the Holburne Museum on the right.
 - K** Pass along the Georgian architectural wonders of Great Pulteney Street and Pulteney Bridge (often featured in period dramas and films).
- You are now back in the heart of Bath where you will find many cafés, patisseries, pubs, restaurants alongside a huge range of attractions.
- L** If you wish, continue on to Kingsmead Square – which has multiple cafés for a quick coffee and cake.
 - M** Join the quiet river path for the final mile.

TWO TUNNELS GREENWAY

Map Key

Cycle Route Traffic-free

Cycle Route on Road

Tunnel no exits

Starting Point

Mile Markers

Points of Interest

Access Points

Refreshments

Public Toilets

Elevation (m)

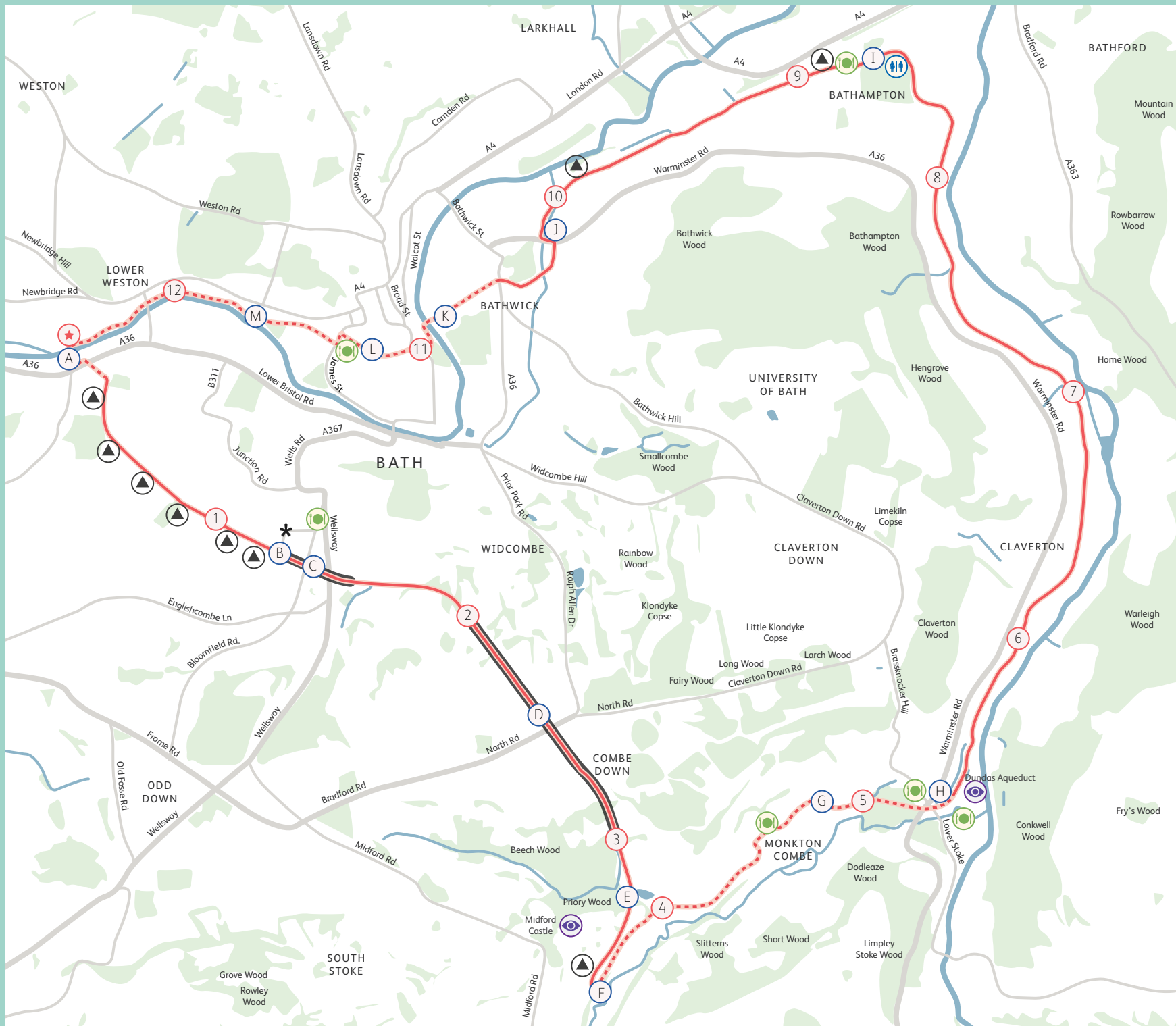


Start Elevation: **20m**

Max Elevation: **162m**

Gain: **235m**

Climbs on Route: 5





Kennet and Avon Canal to Bradford ON Avon

DISTANCE
17.5 MILES

TIME
3-4 HRS

ABILITY
LEVEL 3

Avoncliff Aqueduct
country pubs
Medieval tithe barn

For the late Robin Williams cycling was “the closest you can get to flying”: we’re sure you’ll agree as you soar across the canal paths.

You can hire nextbikes from the nearby Holburne Museum (see pages 3-4 for other hire locations). If coming from further afield you could park at The George in Bathampton.

A Join the Kennet and Avon Canal at Beckford Road.

B Alternative start point at The George in Bathampton.

C After 4.5 miles on the path you will reach Dundas Aqueduct. A short detour straight on will take you to the Brassknocker Basin café & campsite, Angelfish Restaurant, and close by is a restored portion of the historical Somerset Coal Canal, now used for moorings. For canoe and boat hire there is the Bath and Dundas Canal Company.

AVONCLIFF AQUEDUCT

Completed by John Rennie and chief engineer John Thomas in 1801, the central span sagged soon after it was built and has been repaired many times.

D Cross over Avoncliff Aqueduct. This is a rare opportunity to follow the canal path as it traverses the river.

E A good stopping point is provided in the form of the 16th Century Cross Guns (a family and dog-friendly pub with Box Steam Brewery ales and ciders).

F 1.5 miles later you will enter Bradford-on-Avon by the medieval Tithe Barn (which is worth a look).

TITHE BARN

This 14th century barn was originally part of a monastic grange, owned by the richest nunnery in the land at the time: Shaftesbury Abbey. Its beautiful timber cruck roof spans 168 feet (51 metres).

G Join the main road through the town centre. There are a number of foodie options available, including the award-winning Bridge Tea Rooms (on Bridge Street) and the family-run Lock Inn.

QUOINS ORGANIC VINEYARD

They run tours (£7 for over 18s) the first Sunday of May, June, July, August or September. It’s two miles from the Tithe Barn up through Bradford to Little Ashton.

H Return the way you came, or more confident cyclists could return via the Two Tunnels on p.13 (take a left after Avoncliff Aqueduct and head out towards Brassknocker Basin, then continue up hill to Monkton Combe School and left through the village, left again towards Wellow not Bath, near the top of the hill take a sharp right onto cycle path which takes you into the south west of Bath).




KENNET AND AVON CANAL TO BRADFORD ON AVON

Map Key

 Cycle Route Traffic-tree

 Starting Point

 Mile Markers (outward)

 Mile Markers (return)

 Points of Interest

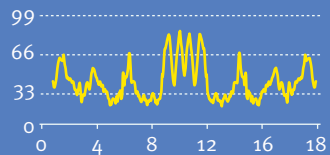
 Access Points

 Refreshments

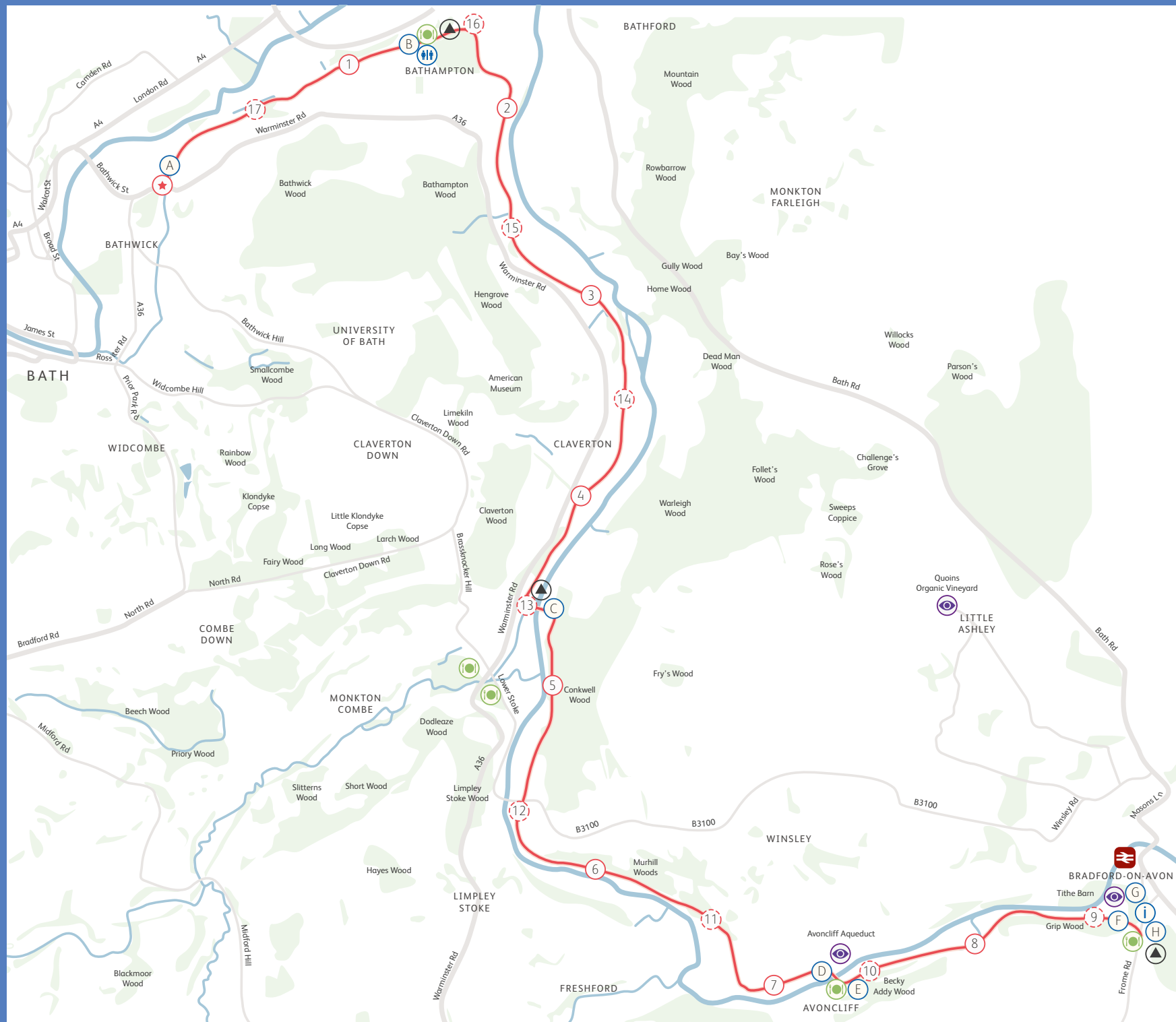
 Tourist Information

 Public Toilets

Elevation (m)



Start Elevation: **41m**
Max Elevation: **70m**
Gain: **255m**
Climbs on Route: **5**



Bath to Bristol Railway Path

DISTANCE
13 MILES

(shorter or longer as suits)

TIME
2-3 HRS

ABILITY
LEVEL 1

One of the UK's Top 10 Best Cycling Routes
Cosmopolitan Magazine (2014)

Entirely traffic-free route
Riverside pubs
Train return option
Sculptured water fountain

A simple out and back route on the traffic-free Bristol Bath Railway Path. You can make this route shorter by turning around wherever suits you.

For extra routes mentioned joining this route visit betterbybike.info

A Begin at the path entrance on Brassmill Lane. Follow the straight path out to Saltford, crossing a few bridges and overlooking the countryside.

B Saltford is a good place to stop, home to a number of great riverside pubs. The Bird in Hand backs onto the cycle path, a good stop for family food or a rest and quick game of boules!

SALTfORD BRASS MILL

Check out the Brass Mill – a scheduled ancient monument which has recently been restored, after closure in 1925.

C Bitton Railway Station. There are toilets, a café, restaurant and the chance to ride on a steam train and plenty of stands to lock your bike to should you fancy a picnic on the grass.

THE GAIUS SENTIUS FOUNTAIN

This sculpture stands at the spot where the railway intersected a Roman road. It was created in 1992 by Gordon Young in the form of a thirsty Roman Legionnaire. Great for filling your water bottle (button hidden to left)!

D After crossing the road at the Toucan crossing there's another chance for a rest break and some light refreshment at the "Warmley Waiting Room" café (open 10.00-16.00 year-round). Their latest feature is a Doctor Who-style Tardis toilet: the "Who loo", complete with flashing light and Tardis sound effects. The flashing light on top of the Tardis alerts people someone is using the bathroom!

E From here you can access Warmley Forest Park (a former clay quarry), Siston Common, and the Dramway: where horses used to pull coal-laden carts, "drams", down to the River Avon.

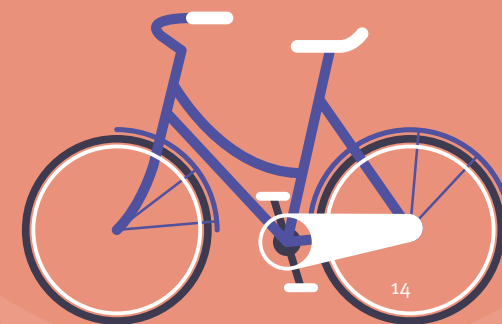
F Bear right to remain on the Railway Path. Then stay on the path and cross two bridges.

G The Avon Cycleway, an 85-mile circular route around Bristol, joins here and forms part of National Cycle Network route 3 extending all the way down to Lands' End in Cornwall.

H Staple Hill Tunnel. The name may derive from the old English word 'steap' meaning 'steep', or it may have described a long-forgotten pillar or standing stone – called a 'stapol'.

I If you fancy exploring further – here's a good place to leave the path towards Eastville Park and the River Frome, another beautiful cycling location. You may have noticed that you are now on the descent into Bristol, downhill from here on...

J The cycle path ends in Newton Park. You can turn around here and return along the path back to Bath (making the entire route 26 miles), or you can cycle 1 mile (5-10 mins) to Bristol Temple Meads and catch the train back into the centre of Bath.




BATH TO BRISTOL RAILWAY PATH


Map Key

 Cycle Route Traffic-tree


 Tunnel no exits


 Starting Point

 Mile Markers

 Points of Interest

 Access Points

 Refreshments

 Picnic Area

 Public Toilets

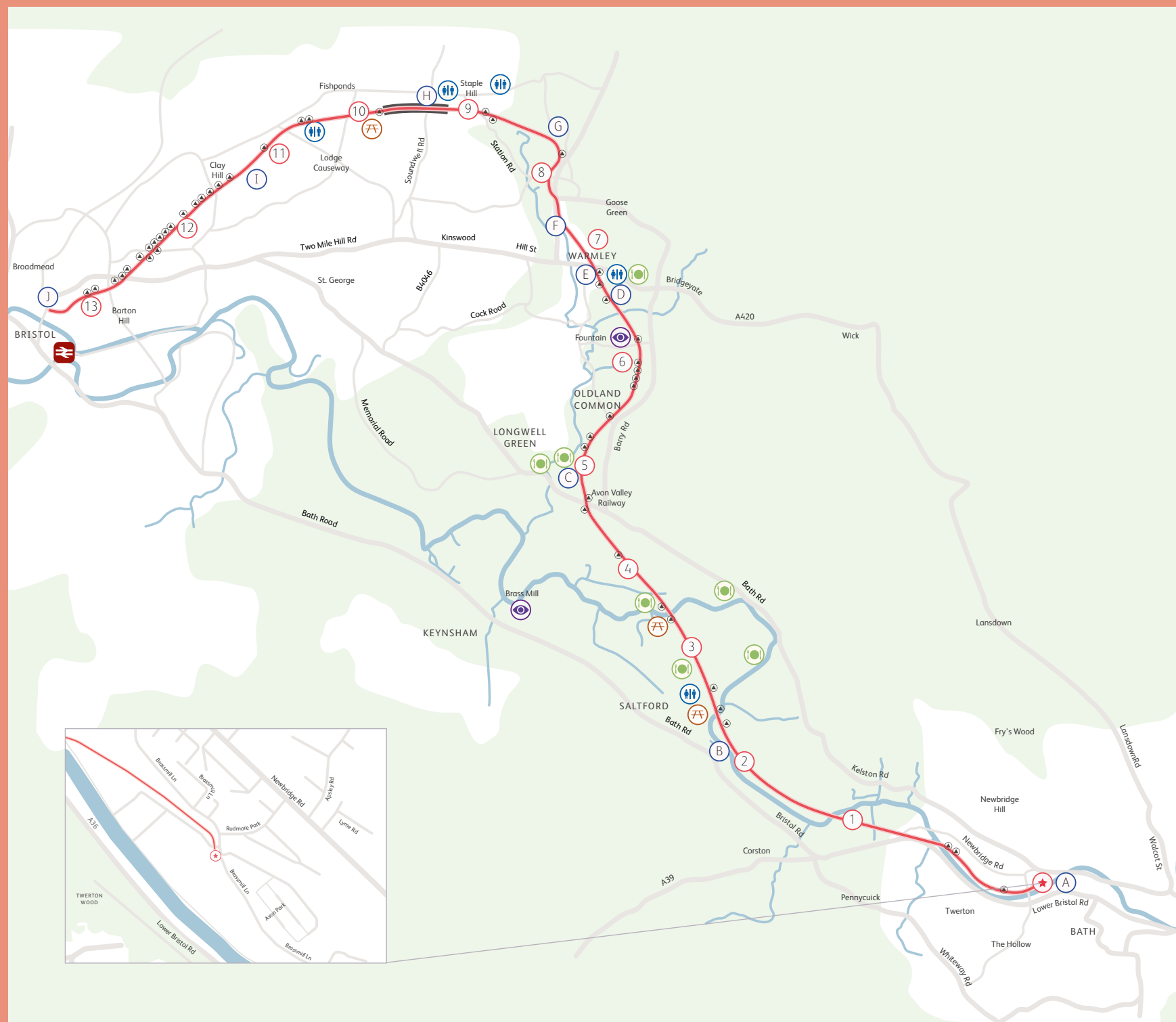
Elevation (m)

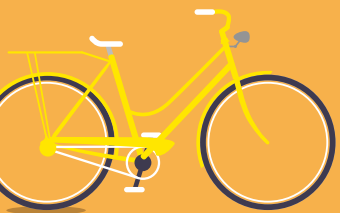


Start Elevation: **18m**

Max Elevation: **83m**

Gain: **116m**





Bath City-Centre cycle Routes



ROUTE 1

DISTANCE
4.1 MILES

TIME
1-2 HRS

ABILITY
LEVEL 2

Royal Crescent
Parks
Pulteney Bridge

ROUTE 2

DISTANCE
1.7 MILES

TIME
30 MINS

ABILITY
LEVEL 2

Milsom Street
Walcot Street (artisan quarter)
Pulteney Weir

ROUTE 1: STARTING FROM ORANGE GROVE

- A** Bath Abbey is on your left as you ride out from Orange Grove towards Cheap Street and through the pedestrianised shopping area of the city.
- B** Passing the Theatre Royal on your left you will go through the bollards and then over the footpath to reach Queen Square – known for its food festivals and boules tournaments.
- C** Georgian Architecture is most famously displayed at the Circus and as you continue west to the Royal Crescent. Cross the pavement at the end of the Crescent to drop down Marlborough Buildings to Royal Victoria Park.
- D** Enter and circle Royal Victoria Park, including the Botanical Gardens, before cycling along Royal Avenue towards town.
- E** Two left turns and a right out of Victoria Park will see you at the top of Milsom Street, a paradise of Georgian architecture, shops, cafés and restaurants.
- F** Continue around Grand Parade passing the weir and turning left onto North Parade where you will cross the river and pass the Bath Rugby Ground.
- G** Pulteney Road is more heavily trafficked than central Bath so take care as you cross the roundabout at the Holburne Museum.
- H** Great Pulteney Street has featured in many period costume dramas.
- I** Pulteney Bridge cannot be crossed by private car, but bikes are OK! This bridge has also featured in many films. On the corner ahead is the Victoria Art Gallery.

ROUTE 2: STARTING FROM THE TRAIN STATION

- A** Bath Spa Railway Station was designed by Brunel and built in 1840. Brunel Square, opposite the Southgate Shopping Centre, is a haven of culinary delights.
 - B** Stay in the centre of the lane through Dorchester Street and move into the right lane to pass Churchill Bridge then move straight into the left lane.
 - C** Green Park Station was once the second railway station for the city; it now hosts a weekly food and drink market and monthly vintage markets featuring local, ethical businesses.
- ### OPTIONAL ADDITION
- On the corner of the green space on Norfolk Place West you can join the River Avon path. On this out and back you'll come across The Dolphin Pub which has a pub garden and serves family-friendly meals. Also, this path provides access to the Bristol Bath Railway Path route – see page 13. At Bath Marina and Caravan Park turn around and head back along the river path. nextbike users are able to use their toilet facilities: ask at reception.
- D** If you're not stopping at Green Park, get into the right hand lane and follow the cycle path along Monmouth Street, go left at the Griffin Inn then immediately right.
 - E** Cycle along some of Bath's hidden back streets to Milsom Street, a paradise of Georgian architecture, shops, cafés and restaurants.
 - F** Turn left to do a little circuit of Bath Postal Museum and Walcot Street.
 - G** The Weir and Parade Gardens are a lovely sight, best viewed from the footway.
 - H** Continue on along Manvers Street to return to the station.

BATH CITY-CENTRE CYCLE ROUTES

Map Key



Cycle Route on Road



Route 1: Start Point, Points of Interest and Mile Markers



Route 2: Start Point, Points of Interest and Mile Markers



Refreshments

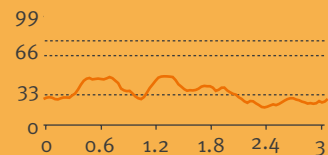


Tourist Information



Public Toilets

Route 1 Elevation (m)

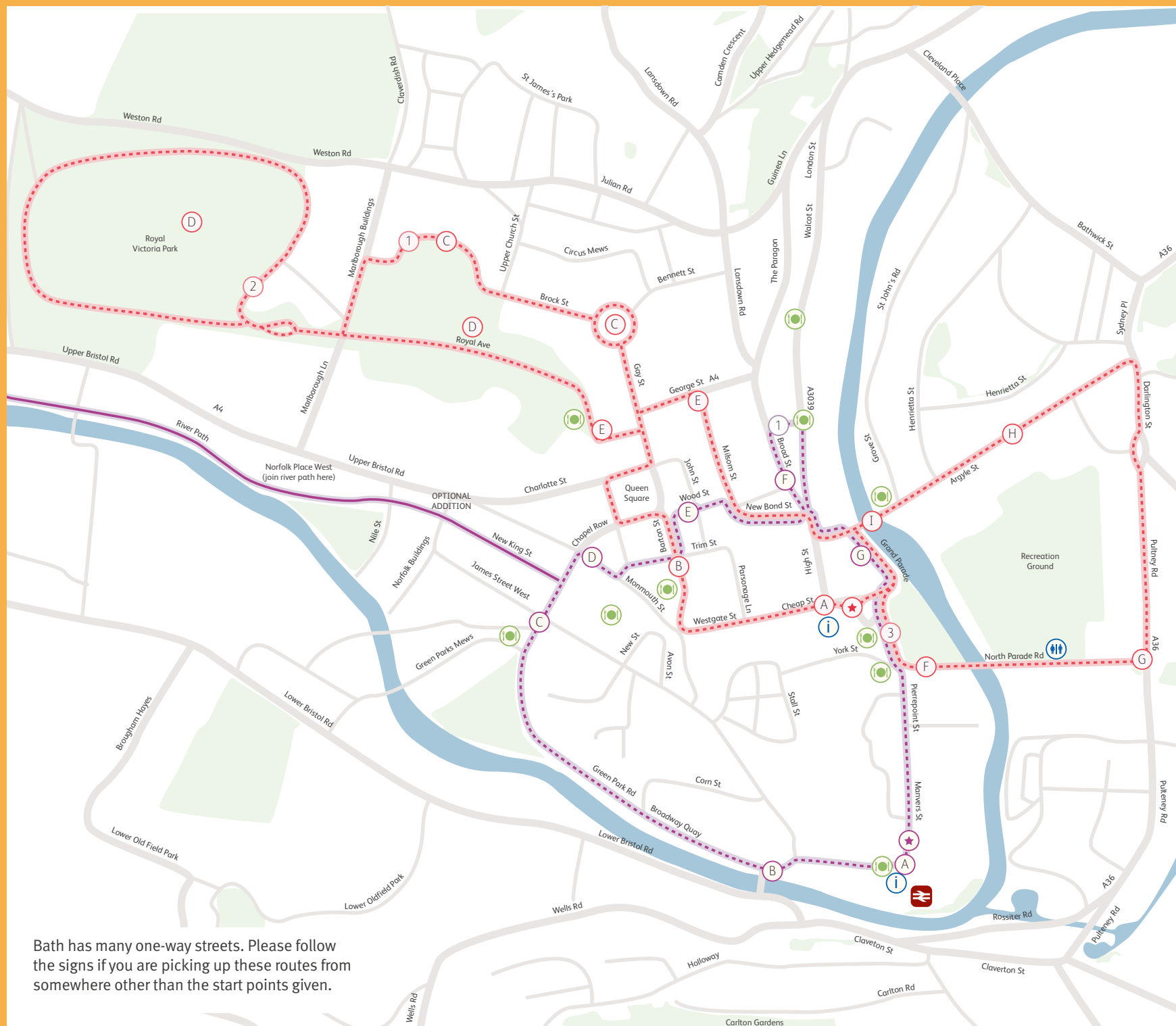


Start Elevation: **31m**

Max Elevation: **51m**

Gain: **63m**

Bath has many one-way streets. Please follow the signs if you are picking up these routes from somewhere other than the start points given.



Bath Points of Interest

BATH ABBEY

A living church, with a history going back to 757AD, the Bath Abbey now offers a great example of medieval architecture with some of the finest fan vaulting in the world.

GREAT PULTENEY STREET

Commissioned by Sir William Pulteney, designed by Thomas Baldwin and completed in 1789. Over 1,000 feet long and 100 feet wide the road was the grandest in Bath.

GREEN PARK STATION

With vaulted iron and glass roof this original train station boasts the oldest Farmer's market in Britain (every Saturday).

MILSOM STREET

Once described as "The UK's most Fashionable Street", this street is a picture of Georgian elegance, with a number of designer brands and the UK's oldest department store, Jolly's.

PARADE GARDENS

Winner of multiple RHS Britain in Bloom awards, the city-centre "pleasure grounds" overlook the River Avon. A great picnic spot, with deck chairs and children's entertainment (summer holidays only). Open April to end September.

PULTENEY BRIDGE

Pulteney Bridge, like the Ponte Vecchio, is one of just four historic bridges in the world with shops built into it. Originally, intended to connect Bath to land on the other bank of the River Avon in an attempt to make William Pulteney's fortune, this romantic bridge is best viewed from North Parade or the river path.

PULTENEY WEIR

The scene of Javert's suicide in the film version of Les Misérables, the weir was constructed between 1968 and 1972 as part of a flood-prevention scheme.

QUEENS SQUARE

This square of Georgian houses was the first piece in "the most important architectural sequence in Bath", which includes the Circus and the Royal Crescent.

ROYAL VICTORIA PARK

Originally an arboretum, the 57-acre Victoria Park was opened in 1830 by the 11-year-old Queen Victoria. You'll find an expansive adventure playground, 18-hole mini golf course, botanical gardens, duck ponds, and some great picnic spots.

THE CIRCUS

Originally The King's Circus, this striking attraction was designed by John Wood the Elder and completed by his son in 1768. Wood was fascinated by prehistoric stone circles and the Roman Colosseum. You'll see many emblems in the stonework including acorns: a tribute to the druids – (stone circle creators). Stand in the centre of the garden and clap your hands - the echo reverberates around the walls three times.

THE ROYAL CRESCENT

Designed by John Wood the Younger, construction began in 1767 and finished in 1774. This impressive landmark forms a sweeping crescent of 30 Grade I Listed houses, and is one of the greatest examples of Georgian architecture in the UK.

SYDNEY GARDENS

Situated behind the Holburne Museum at the end of Great Pulteney Street, Sydney Gardens is Bath's oldest park. Planned by the architect Harcourt Masters in 1795, the leafy park has a children's play area.

WALCOT STREET

The Artisan Quarter – filled with an inspiring selection of independent craft and curio shops.



WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS
FOR FUNDING AND SUPPORT:



VisitBath together with Bath and North East Somerset Council, the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, Better by Bike have worked together to create this booklet of cycle routes in and around Bath.

Funding for the project was kindly provided by Bristol Airport and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines – bringing the world closer to Bath.

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this booklet and the routes, paths and access points are all believed correct at the time of printing, Bath Tourism Plus, Bath and North East Somerset Council, the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and Better by Bike are not liable for any errors or omissions. ©2014. All rights reserved.



Bringing the world closer to Bath



Bath Visitor Information Centre
(Abbey Churchyard) for maps and tickets.

For everything you need to explore Bath, from restaurants and attractions to packages, accommodation and tours: **visitBath.co.uk**